

Principle FIVE

P5

Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

December 2023



AGM 2023

Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre
The Mike Bower Boardroom
Aizlewood's Mill



Dennis Chambers receiving certificate from Principle 5 members recording appreciation for his ten years service as a director
Dennis continues as part of the Principle 5 Team

Principle 5

Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre

Commemorative Certificate awarded to

Dennis Chambers

In recognition of a founder-member, and of a decade of service to the Committee of Principle 5 (YCRC), and his lifetime of commitment to the cause of humanity, socialism, co-operation and especially the environment, a true friend to us all.

**Signed on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of
Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre**

Wed. 29th Nov. 2023, in the Boardroom, Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield

Signatories:

David Benson
Nick Edmondson
Gavin Rogers
Margaret McGowan
Dean Trinsley
Felicity Reed
Diane Patterson
Steve Thompson
Jonathan Cook
Bryan
Jaye Meadows
Dorothy
with love Naomi xx
Graham McCowan
Goff Nixon

Principle 5 AGM

The AGM on Wednesday 29th November 2023 marked 10 years since the collection was put together in Aizlewood's Mill. We kept to the usual format for the report to members; a record of the events of the year; a background to co-operative education; a timeline of the progress of our co-operative. The full report can be downloaded from the website:

<https://www.principle5.coop/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Report-to-the-Principle-5-AGM-2023.pdf>

A video made by Jonathan Cook and Steve Thompson was shown. This is also on the study page of the website:

<https://www.principle5.coop/p5-study>

Election of Directors

Dennis Chambers stood down as a director but remains part of the Principle 5 Team.

The other current directors were all re-elected; **Dave Berry, Jonathan Cook, Nick Edmondson and Dr Chris Olewicz.**

Dr John Carlisle was elected.

All votes were unanimous.

Jonathan Cook has been Chair of Principle 5 since its foundation and will step down from this position in the New Year.



No. 99.

JUNE, 1932.

GUARANTEED CIRCULATION, 30,000 COPIES.

SHEFFIELD'S LIBRARY SYSTEM.

THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY.

By ALDERMAN A. BARTON (Chairman, Sheffield Libraries Committee).

LIBRARIES are necessities to a civilised community.

All our knowledge is embodied in books; and all the sentiments that distinguish us from animals are found in books. If we do not read them ourselves we are dependent on those who do.

Bread must come before books is commonly said, and I am not disputing it. But it is well to remember that in the time of Elizabeth the population of this country was probably about five millions. To-day it is roughly forty millions, and it is safe to say that Great Britain could not support more than it did in that time but for our greater knowledge enshrined in books.

The Poor Man's University.

Education goes on throughout life, and nine-tenths consists not in remembering, but in knowing where to look for what is needed in the pages of books.

Public libraries are the people's universities. It is up to us to defend them as necessities of a reasonable life and not as mere luxuries.

Remarkable Progress.

This year's report of the Sheffield Libraries contains some interesting figures. It states that in 1925-26 the number of books issued was about 1,600,000; at March 31st this year it was 3,715,929, while the increase for the year was 691,505, or 22.9 per cent. And it is still going up. The number of borrowers was 140,605.

Considering that there are only about 120,000 houses in the city, and that large districts have no libraries, it shows that the bulk of the working classes are borrowers; and since many books are read by two or three members of a family the circulation is larger than it really looks.

The Unemployed.

Increase of unemployment has contributed to the use of libraries, but there is rarely a large number of people willing to take advantage of educational facilities, and the tremendous increase in this city is largely due to the efforts and

skill of the Chief Librarian and his assistants, with the help of the committee. The libraries have been made pleasant and even beautiful places, and every opportunity has been given to make the use of books as attractive as possible. Our recently-built libraries—

Facilities to Students.

The reference and the commercial and technical libraries are of the utmost value for students, both from the secondary schools and university; as well as literary and scientific people, and thousands of unknown men and women

"Commercial process for manufacturing meta-nitro-aniline."

"Description of construction and use of 'Kearns boring and turning machine.'"

"Formula for working out amount of compression on a submerged steel sphere."

"Leblanc' process for commercial manufacture of sodium sulphide from sodium sulphate."

"Constructed details, &c., of Hele-Shaw clutch."

"Inductance calculation for iron-cored coils."

"Chips removal devices for super high-speed drilling machines."

And they have all been answered by means of the library!

Facilities for Business Men.

Local firms are always using our directories, code-books, patents, and all the very latest and up-to-date technical and scientific books, and many orders for Sheffield have been got as a consequence.

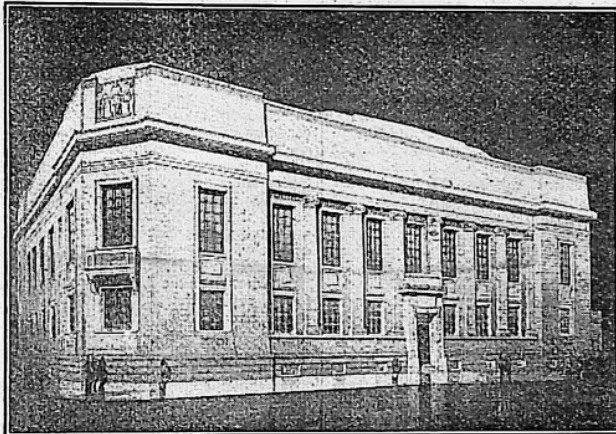
In addition, people seeking to develop their plant or open up new industries have used our library with success, and many people have been grateful in getting jobs or bettering their jobs by means of the information acquired at the library.

Children's Libraries.

Another fine feature is the children's libraries. How many children have soon forgotten all they learned at school. Our aim is to encourage them to start using the library whilst they are at school, and get them in the way of making reading a habit. Unfortunately, our funds are not sufficient for all we would like to do, and so we have to content ourselves with sending boxes of books to the majority of schools. But at Walkley, Park, Firth Park, Woodhouse, and Hillsborough we have established children's libraries, and very popular they are. In the last three

*The information supplied enabled an unemployed man to accept offer of work.

[Continued on Page 2.]



NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY, SHEFFIELD—In course of erection.

Firth Park and Woodhouse—are the latest word in delightfulness, and are appreciated to the full.

A large proportion of the books is, of course, fiction; even so, fiction is a very entertaining and innocent way of passing leisure time, and maybe keeps people from worse things. Still, the percentage of more serious books, classed as non-fiction, is very high. From the lending libraries alone the percentage is as high as 27.49 per cent., so that the educational value of the libraries is very great indeed.

The lending libraries, too, are great resorts for the unemployed, many of whom use their leisure to cultivate their brains in a very creditable way.

of the working class who devote themselves to digging deep at the fount of knowledge.

Queries.

These libraries not only provide books; they also provide assistance in finding the right books. Here are a few of the questions which Mr. Lamb (the chief librarian) has had during the past year:—

"What happened to Bismarck on January 26th, 1894?"

"Number of Bibles sold in 1930."

"The weight of a haystack."

"How to make a doll's house."

"Who built the dome of St. Peter's, Rome?"



HILLSBOROUGH BRANCH—CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.
The Story Hour.



FIRTH PARK BRANCH—READING ROOM.

THE SHEFFIELD LIBRARY SYSTEM.

By R. J. GORDON, Chief Librarian of Sheffield.

The following article by our present Chief Librarian will, we feel, be of great interest to our readers. Mr. Gordon has now been appointed Chief Librarian of Leeds, and we wish him the best of luck in his new position. Mr. Gordon has the high honour of having trained a capable successor in Mr. J. P. Lamb, who starts his official duties in April of this year.

THE greater interest now obtaining, all over the world, in the public library movement, and which is so noticeable in our own city, is of increasing social and educational value. Public libraries, appealing as they do to all classes, sects, and degrees of intelligence, are rapidly and clearly becoming community schools where all may increase and supplement their education. Be it remembered that the average adult who attended the ordinary primary school, could only have received the beginnings of education, and to these the public library is the main source of educational advancement. Too often the public library is only thought and spoken of in connection with the reading of novels, and without detracting in the slightest degree from the value to the people of the library's service in providing recreational reading, yet I would emphasise the contribution it offers so freely to the raising of the standard of general intelligence which is the library's greatest value to the city.

One of our leading librarians has defined the library as "books made productive," and the definition is gradually becoming more true. The modern public library does make books productive, but only in the same ratio as the people realise that books can be used as tools of intelligence, as machines of value in the progress of the world. It is impossible to stress too strongly the educational value of the library, though I admit the fullest possibilities of its function as part of the national educational structure is but, as yet, dimly recognised. The

we live. The better our reading is, the better our living is sure to be. Food, clothing, and shelter are requisites of life, but reading is necessary for complete living.

Information.

Information obtainable from books and other printed material is freely placed at the service of the public; competent counsel in the choice of books; where to look for the required information, and guidance as to the methods of selection of books is obtainable on request. The library will gladly answer requests for information received by letter or telephone, and every endeavour will be made to find satisfactory information. The service given is free to all; it is courteous, generous, and proficient.

Created in 1856, the library system of our city to-day consists of two central libraries, eight branch district libraries, and some forty unit services in various elementary schools. Naturally the central libraries are the more important and contain the largest, most varied, and recent book stocks. The reference library consists of some 60,000 volumes, covering practically all developments of human knowledge. It is particularly strong in literary, historical, and art subjects. And, of course, it has a large range of books of the purely reference type, such as dictionaries, atlases, encyclopædias, bibliographies on many subjects, sets of the important learned societies' proceedings, annuals, year books, and works of a similar nature. It also contains, as is its obvious duty, the best and largest collection of books about Sheffield, or written by Sheffield people. In its Jackson Collection of local deeds, charters, court rolls, maps, &c., it has one of the finest collections of its kind in the kingdom. The city owes much to Mr. T. Walter Hall for his years of devotion to this side of our library work.

also has a regular supply of some 180 leading trade and technical periodicals.

The central libraries also contain a full set of the Patent Office publications from the year 1617, and these are invaluable for intending patentees and those interested in industrial and other inventions.

Open Access System.

The central lending library is an open access library, and has a stock of over 30,000 books, many of them expensive, but these are as freely available for home reading as the cheapest book. This, the main lending library of the city, is the library for the more advanced student and the general reader. It receives the book of the day as published. Its stock is catholic in selection, and it contains many advanced works on science, technology, literature, and sociology. It is not for readers who require only the latest popular novel, unless it should happen to be the work of a novelist of admitted quality. In general the libraries do not provide, as new, the ordinary novel. They have not the money for the purpose, even supposing the ordinary novel was worth its price. To real readers and book-lovers I can unreservedly recommend the central lending library.

The eight branch libraries are regarded as feeders to the more inclusive stock of books available at the central library. They serve the immediate population in their areas, and pass on to the central library the reader who has advanced beyond the more elementary and popular types of books carried in the branch stocks. With the attractive method of open access to the shelves in operation our branches have attained considerable success and are worthy of support.

Children's Sections.

As other institutions have realised the need for cultivating the attention of the child, so have the libraries attracted by means of their juvenile rooms and book corners the potential adult reader of the future. Unfortunately our old buildings have prevented the facilities given being equal to those enjoyed by

in our Sheffield libraries any book asked for, other than fiction, it can generally be procured for the reader on loan from the excellent Central Library for Students. There are only two conditions, first, the price of the required book must not be less than 6s., and secondly, the cost of carriage must be paid by the borrower. Application at any library will bring the necessary details.

Advice and Assistance.

The Library Committee and the staff are anxious to supply all reasonable requests of the public, and in this connection we specially desire readers not to leave the libraries feeling dissatisfied. If we have not the books wanted don't hesitate to say so. If you do not tell us what you want, we are only able to guess at your requirements, and there is left a margin of uncertainty. Please do not mistake my meaning regarding this. I mean requirements of books of real value, and not merely of recreational interest.

The libraries are not only keen on possessing more and better books, but are alive to the necessity of informing the public of the books they have. They seek to attract and cultivate readers. This is attempted, with no little success, by means of special trade catalogues distributed through associations, societies, and employers to the workers in the trades with which they deal. Special comprehensive lists of books in the libraries on office and business organisation, summer sports, gardening, Nature study, and other subjects have also supplied a seeming want to readers. The lecture system, with its bibliographical syllabus, is also a means to the same end.

Comparisons.

I would urge my readers to encourage the use of the libraries by their children, and in this connection I need not labour the point as to the value of good reading. I want the people of Sheffield to realise more completely the value to them of the libraries. Much has been done to make the libraries worthy of their name, but much more remains to be done before our libraries can make with them

rapidly and clearly becoming community schools where all may increase and supplement their education. Be it remembered that the average adult who attended the ordinary primary school, could only have received the beginnings of education, and to these the public library is the main source of educational advancement. Too often the public library is only thought and spoken of in connection with the reading of novels, and without detracting in the slightest degree from the value to the people of the library's service in providing recreational reading, yet I would emphasise the contribution it offers so freely to the raising of the standard of general intelligence which is the library's greatest value to the city.

One of our leading librarians has defined the library as "books made productive," and the definition is gradually becoming more true. The modern public library does make books productive, but only in the same ratio as the people realise that books can be used as tools of intelligence, as machines of value in the progress of the world. It is impossible to stress too strongly the educational value of the library, though I admit the fullest possibilities of its function as part of the national educational structure is but, as yet, dimly recognised. The library can give, as no other institution can give, what has been called the new humanism; "the appreciative selection of the best in the past to serve our present needs; the vivid realisation of the inestimable worth of the things that abide amid all changes; the tempering of the restless spirit of the age by the calm spirit of the ages."

Those of my readers who pass by the central libraries in Surrey-street may have observed the various slogans used on the publicity boards erected outside the buildings. One slogan used was: "The Library exists for Books, Information, and Service," and this is an all-sufficient epitome of the library's purpose. Under these three heads I propose to give a brief résumé of the work of the libraries.

Books.

Books are naturally the stock-in-trade of the libraries. Every endeavour is made to anticipate the reading demands of a large city; to reflect in the book stocks all the intellectual needs of the citizens. The more we read the more

rapidly we realise the need for information received by letter or telephone, and every endeavour will be made to find satisfactory information. The service given is free to all; it is courteous, generous, and proficient.

Created in 1856, the library system of our city to-day consists of two central libraries, eight branch district libraries, and some forty unit services in various elementary schools. Naturally the central libraries are the more important and contain the largest, most varied, and recent book stocks. The reference library consists of some 60,000 volumes, covering practically all developments of human knowledge. It is particularly strong in literary, historical, and art subjects. And, of course, it has a large range of books of the purely reference type, such as dictionaries, atlases, encyclopaedias, bibliographies on many subjects, sets of the important learned societies' proceedings, annuals, year books, and works of a similar nature. It also contains, as is its obvious duty, the best and largest collection of books about Sheffield, or written by Sheffield people. In its Jackson Collection of local deeds, charters, court rolls, maps, &c., it has one of the finest collections of its kind in the kingdom. The city owes much to Mr. T. Walter Hall for his years of devotion to this side of our library work.

Commercial and Technical.

The commercial and technical department of the reference library is concerned solely with the more material things of life, and here business men can find and profit by a quarry of industrial worth. The commercial section of the department contains up-to-date directories of the world, many cable code books, trade publications of many kinds, Government, consular, and other official reports, modern books on business organisation, salesmanship, accountancy, and all subjects of value in commerce. The technical side contains transactions of the British and American scientific and technical societies, and an extensive range of modern books on engineering, chemistry, physics, fuels, and all branches of the building and printing industries; in fact, something on almost every trade in the city. The department's collection of books on metallurgy is one of the best and most up-to-date in the country, and is of inestimable value to the industry. It

advanced works on science, technology, literature, and sociology. It is not for readers who require only the latest popular novel, unless it should happen to be the work of a novelist of admitted quality. In general the libraries do not provide, as new, the ordinary novel. They have not the money for the purpose, even supposing the ordinary novel was worth its price. To real readers and book-lovers I can unreservedly recommend the central lending library.

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As other institutions have realised the need for cultivating the attention of the child, so have the libraries attracted by means of their juvenile rooms and book corners the tentative adult reader of the future. Unfortunately our old buildings have prevented the facilities given being equal to those enjoyed by the children of other cities, but the juvenile library at the Walkley branch is a model of its type, and as a new form of library activity in our city is worth notice. It is hoped that when our library service expands, as it must expand, adequate facilities will be given to the very necessary provision of children's libraries.

Our school library system consists of deposits of boxes of books in forty-four elementary schools distant from library service. It is successful, and clearly proves the need for greater facilities for libraries in our primary schools.

Central Library, London.

It is a common criticism of our public libraries that they do not possess the books a reader wants. The marvel is that these complaints are comparatively so few. A moment's thought will show that it is impossible for the libraries to have every book asked for; but connected with our libraries is the service provided by the Central Library for Students, London. If we do not have

books to guess at your requirements, and there is left a margin of uncertainty. Please do not mistake my meaning regarding this. I mean requirements of books of real value, and not merely of recreational interest.

The libraries are not only keen on possessing more and better books, but are alive to the necessity of informing the public of the books they have. They seek to attract and cultivate readers. This is attempted, with no little success, by means of special trade catalogues distributed through associations, societies, and employers to the workers in the trades with which they deal. Special comprehensive lists of books in the libraries on office and business organisation, summer sports, gardening, Nature study, and other subjects have also supplied a seeming want to readers. The lecture system, with its bibliographical syllabus, is also a means to the same end.

Comparisons.

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In conclusion, may I say that the great advance in the issues of books from the Sheffield libraries during the last few years has been made possible by the hard work of the staff. I should like to thank the many thousands of new readers who have utilised the libraries' service, and to invite any readers who may not use the libraries to come and investigate their possibilities.

The Attercliffe Labour Party Socialist Sunday School is held in the Labour Hall, Darnall, every Sunday, at 2-30 p.m., and extends a hearty welcome to all children.

Sheffield Library articles Sheffield Co-operator March 1927 and June 1932

If any members would like to research the story of Sheffield Libraries, please let me know. The Sheffield Co-operator was around when the library service was being developed and when the Central Library was built. We have every edition of the Sheffield Co-operator in PDF format. Let me know if you would like the June 1932 and/or the the March 1927 editions. If there are any other topics which you would like to research please let me know.

steve@sheffield.coop



Co-operatives East Midlands & Co-operatives West Midlands met on Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 10am at the Coalville C.A.N., Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3TU to prepare a submission on our ICA Co-operative Identity Consultation and by Zoom.

The group was demonstrating in practice “co-operation among co-operatives” as Coalville CAN is a co-operative building, has a community shop with strong links to support activities within the local community.

Tanya Noon and John Boyle facilitated the meeting which was led by the Chair, Jane Powell. Attending: Jane Powell, Tanya Noon, Jenny de Villiers, John Boyle, John Goodman, Peter Smith, Mark Grayling, Jane Avery. Online: Val Watson, George Conchie, Ian Hewitt, David Cowell, Joanna West, Elaine Dean. Apols: Steve Thompson, Ian Wilson.

Aim: To critically discuss Principle 6 – Co-operation among Co-operatives and Principle 7 – Concern for Community.

Setting the Scene: Are we doing what the Principles say and, if not, what other things can we do together and push barriers? How are current Principles strengthened and implemented?

- 1 **Principle 6** clearly encourages the creation and maintenance of structures above the level of primary co-operatives. It is also normally interpreted to include co-operation amongst co-operatives within the arenas of trade and business development. Should this be made explicit?

Response:

Yes, include examples, interpretation of meaning in simple language. No change unless it strengthens. Education to members as individuals. More creation of secondary co-ops.

- 2 Should co-operatives favour other co-operatives in their procurement activities?

Response:

Yes wherever possible but not exclusive. Encouragement to Executives to ensure Rules are adhered to with purchasing policy defining co-ops as first priority, preferred supplier, trading importance with support on procurement tendering process. We thought “procurement” was an unhelpful term, we preferred “trading” as it covers a much wider range of economic relationships and interactions.

- 3 Some co-operatives contribute the development of new co-operatives at home and abroad through grants, loans, guarantees, contributions to co-operative development funds, the provision of expertise and support. Should this practice be generalised and incorporated within Principle 6?

Response:

Take out the word “new” in first sentence. Clearer definition that Co-ops Societies have to meet co-operative values and principles (noting FCA take account of first four) . Sharing of resources (back office) to mutual benefit of members. Use of KPIs in co-operatives but include some related to co-operative values and principles. Need for continuing support and growth/sustainability. Societies to understand the business case for developing co-ops through their network channels and joining resources together better. Benefits made clearer within language to young people with

relevance and accessibility. Co-ordination of sector globally through education and training. Meeting different needs of individual members. Messaging (in store defining co-operative difference through its values and principles), democracy in jeopardy and where is the “co-operative commonwealth” relevant to today with decreasing member engagement in voting and participation. Realism of root and branch work to be done. Addressing competition law. Agreed that Co-operatives should favour other co-operatives in their trading activities. Trading to replace procurement.

Principle 7 – co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members

- 1 **Principle 7.** Does this wording full cover its full scope and does it convey it strongly enough?

Response:

What does this mean to our/your organisation? Simplify language and understanding.

- 2 What is the involvement of members in approving policies bearing on the sustainable development of their communities?

Response:

Are policies approved by individual members? Consider democratic involvement in major programmes. Become a member to be part of something with commitment. Bottom up approach.

Change the Principle to: Concern for Community and Planet.

Change the meaning to: Co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities and the Planet through policies approved by their members.

- 3 Are co-operatives ahead of, keep up with or falling behind other forms of social and solidarity enterprise and forward-looking investor-owned firms to redress inequities?

Response:

Current good examples of community regeneration by co-ops. Use of “equitable” message more. More clarity of reporting by co-ops – aligning with UN SDGs.

More support towards Co-operative Development Agencies and the Co-operative sector towards funding these vital services.

- 4 The co-operative principles do not address the place, voice or treatment of employees of co-operatives – should they?

Response:

Essential. Need for education training and information for employees about co-operatives to fully understand the business model and investment benefit/growth of co-operatives to improve employee engagement and retention.

- 5 Are co-operatives assuming full responsibility for caring for the natural environment and mitigating and adapting to climate changes?

Response:

Need for interpretation/clarity in alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Strapline – change to “Concern for Community and Planet” Positive for climate governance and climate justice. Who is lead body – Co-ops UK/ICA? Communities seeking co-operative solutions to environment impact – investment in solar panels, fuel poverty etc.

“The Principles should mean as much as possible in a clear way to as many as possible in simple language” P7 helps P6 – collective community buy-in.

Jenny de Villiers – 5 December 2023
Secretary/Treasurer to Co-operatives East Midlands

Co-operatives East Midlands is a
Principle 5 member.
During the summer they held a stall in
co-operation with other co-operatives:
Central England Co-op
The Co-op Party
The Co-op Group
Principle 5



Steve Thompson and Jenny DeVilliers
of Co-operatives East Midlands

Members are always welcome to visit the
resource centre.

For appointment contact steve@sheffield.coop

Tel: 0114 282 3132
www.principle5.coop

Principle 5 Yorkshire Co-operative Resource Centre
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